

early start across the plains was imperative in order that the immigrants might reach Utah in safety before winter set in. The emigrating agents were to have the carts constructed, supplies collected, and all necessary arrangements made for the trip across the plains to Utah prior to the arrival of the ship with the emigrants. There was to be no delay at the outfitting post after the Saints arrived.



HANDCART FAMILY, BY F. S. KNAPHUS

### THE HANDCARTS

The handcarts consisted of two wheels with thimbleless axles and a framework underlaid with boards, constituting the box of the cart. The framework extended in front with a crossbar by which the cart could be pulled. The length of the side pieces and shafts was about six or seven feet. The supplies were strapped on to the frame of the cart. Often 400 to 500 pounds of flour, bedding, cooking utensils, and clothing were carried on one cart. However, only seventeen pounds of personal luggage was allowed each person.

*—Utah—The Story of Her People*